

Nathan indicted for PLO meeting

TEL AVIV (AP) — Peace activist Abe Nathan has been charged with violating Israeli law for a second time by meeting with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, a justice ministry spokesman said Monday. Nathan was sentenced last October to six months in prison after being convicted of meeting with Arafat and other leading figures in the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in 1988. Released after four months for good behavior, he immediately traveled to PLO headquarters in Tunis and again held talks with Arafat. Nathan, 63, told the Associated Press he met with Arafat last March to protest an Israeli law prohibiting such meetings "which had obstructed peace." Nathan said he was convinced a majority of Israelis were ready to talk to the PLO, and warned that if again convicted he would "use all non-violent measures" to fight the successor to "I will even risk my life," he vowed. Nathan is best known for making a dramatic trip in a private plane to Cairo in 1964 to try to convince Egypt to make peace with Israel. In 1978, he went on a 45-day hunger strike to protest the building of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

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جريدة الأردن تنشر يومياً ملخصاً عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية الرأي



Gorbachev, Singh stress peace

MOSSOW (AP) — President Mikhail Gorbachev and Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh pledged Monday to build a nuclear-free and non-violent world, TASS reported. The official Soviet news agency said a joint statement spoke of the two countries' commitment to disarmament and the replacement of confrontation and force with peace through reason. But the statement of the statement they signed in the Kremlin did not touch on economic issues. Singh arrived in the Soviet Union earlier Monday and was met at the airport by Premier Nikolai L. Ryzhkov. Indian officials had said one of Singh's chief goals during the trip was to protect his country's trade relationship with the Soviet Union, now based on harder and ruble-recepe parity. This could be undercut by Moscow's plan to make the ruble convertible. In dinner speeches, Gorbachev and Singh praised their two countries' cooperation. Singh cited Gorbachev's "courage and visionary thinking" and Gorbachev thanked India for its support for perestroika, his reform programme.

Ambassador heads for Libya

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's appointed ambassador to Libya Hisham Al Muheisen said Monday that he would exert all efforts to bolster ties between Jordan and Libya, severed since 1984, with a view to enhancing Arab solidarity and joint Arab action. Speaking to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, on the eve of his departure for Tripoli to take up his post, Muheisen said that he would not only try to strengthen existing trade and cultural and social links between the two countries, but would also attempt to open new avenues for mutual cooperation in the fields of health, education and tourism.

70,000 emigres to Israel so far this year

TEL AVIV (R) — Some 70,000 immigrants have come to Israel so far this year, most from the Soviet Union, Immigration Minister Yitzhak Peretz told a parliamentary committee Monday. He predicted 20,000 immigrants a month from August onwards, his spokeswoman said. Earlier official estimates projected 150,000 immigrants this year. Peretz said 61,000 immigrants have come from the Soviet Union this year but a third of them are non-Jewish relatives of Soviet Jews.

Bush sends peace message to Egypt

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt (R) — U.S. President George Bush sent Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak a message Monday, stressing Washington's commitment to achieving peace in the Middle East, government sources said. "Working together, we can meet our common goals, chief of which is our desire for peace in the Middle East," Bush told Mubarak in a message congratulating him on the anniversary of Egypt's 1952 revolution.

Rafsanjani attacks opponents

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's pragmatist President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani Monday launched a scathing attack on his hardline rivals. Rafsanjani called for closer relations with the outside world, saying Iran could not survive without friends. He defended the role of the Experts' Assembly, which chooses Iran's supreme leader, after leading radical Ali Akbar Mohtasham sparked a political row by attacking its members last week. "If a person or a trend is thinking of weakening that holy organisation (the assembly), their action will be regarded as treason and will not be tolerated," Tehran radio quoted Rafsanjani as telling a gathering of clergymen.

Fire reported at Soviet nuclear plant

MOSCOW (R) — An electrical fire at a nuclear power station in Central Russia forced the plant to shut down automatically, but there was no damage to the reactor, the government daily *Izvestia* said Monday. The station at Smolensk, 375 kilometres southwest of Moscow, was of a design similar to one at Chernobyl in the Ukraine where a reactor went out of control in 1986, sending radioactive fallout over a wide area. A fire in an electric cable running to a reserve boiler at the Smolensk station triggered the automatic shut down Sunday, the report said. Firefighters put out the blaze.

'Zulu war' spreads

JOHANNESBURG (R) — At least 18 people were killed in weekend political warfare in black townships near Johannesburg, police said Monday. Followers of Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi clashed with backers of the leftist African National Congress (ANC) after a rally in Soweto township Sunday. It was the bloodiest spill-over into South Africa's industrial heartland of faction fighting that has claimed more than 3,000 lives in the eastern province of Natal.



His Majesty King Hussein and the delegation which accompanied him on a visit to Cairo Monday are received upon their return home after their brief working visit to the Egyptian capital by Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Prince Faisal (Petra photo).

Iraqi media launch attack on Sheikh Sabah

Kuwait defends itself in flaring row with Iraq

BAHRAIN (Agencies) —

Kuwait, defending itself against Iraq, charged that it sought to draw foreign powers into its worsening confrontation, denied Monday it sought U.N. intervention and said it wanted Arabs to settle the dispute.

There was no immediate reaction to Monday's bitter personal attack in the official Iraqi media on Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, branded as a U.S. agent.

The Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA), quoting an official source, said the emirate's memorandum last week to United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar was in line with international practice.

"Kuwait would like to assert here once again that when it submitted that memo it never requested that it be distributed to member nations or that the U.N. secretary general should act upon it," it quoted the official source as saying.

"Kuwait is concerned that all issues which arise about relations between brothers should be dealt

within the Arab League."

The contact with the U.N. has infuriated Baghdad.

"Sabah Al Ahmad has been further exposed as a U.S. agent when he abandoned the Arab choice and sent his memorandum to international forums to take the issue out of the Arab League..." Al Jumhuriya said.

Replies to Sheikh Sabah's comment that the dispute was a "summer cloud," Al Jumhuriya said: "The one who calls all the evil done by Kuwait against Iraq as a summer cloud has an evil hand in the big American conspiracy not only against Iraq, but against Kuwait and the Arab Nation at large."

Syria appealed for calm to defuse the crisis between Baghdad and Kuwait.

In his first public comments on the row since Iraq last week accused Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) of stabbing Baghdad in the back by overproducing oil and forcing down prices, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad said quiet diplomacy was needed to resolve

They said he sought to "exercise a bigger and more effective role in the conspiracy against Iraq."

The papers said Sheikh Sabah had seized the file on the Iraq-Kuwait border issue from Sheikh Saad to prolong the dispute.

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(Continued on page 4)

Continued battles in S. Lebanon

SIDON (Agencies) —

Rival Shi'ite Muslim factions reinforced their frontlines at a mountain-top town in South Lebanon Monday. Thousands of villagers fled the region, fearing further warfare.

Police reported a marked decrease in fighting between the pro-Iranian fundamentalist Hizbullah, and the Syrian-backed Amal militia around the strategic town of Jarouj.

They said a combatant was killed and two Amal militiamen were wounded in day-long, sporadic exchanges of artillery and sniper fire as the battle for a cluster of villages near Israel's self-designated "security zone" entered a second week.

Police said the dead fighter was a Syrian who belonged to the Damascus-based Arab Baath Party. About 200 Baathists and a symbolic force of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party have been

fighting alongside Amal.

Israeli air force jets monitored the fighting in repeated reconnaissance flights over South Lebanon Monday, police said.

Monday's casualties raised the toll to 126 people killed and 369 wounded since the fighting broke out July 16.

The bombardments hit at least 10 villages but concentrated on the village of Jarouj, captured by Hizbullah in house-to-house fighting.

Amal and its allies, backed by covering fire from Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) fighters, have failed to retake the village despite fierce counter-attacks.

An Iranian embassy delegation led by Ghohamra Valizadeh continued talks with militia officials in Sidon to try to end the battles in the nearby Iqam Al Toufah district 40 kilometres

(Continued on page 4)

Petra Bank scandal: Story unfolding of shady dealings, puzzling questions and chaos in account books

Chalabi's dubious banking activities make other scandals pale in comparison

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The intricacies of one of the worst scandals in Middle East banking history are expected to unfold soon when details of the collapsed Petra Bank "empire" emerge into the open through legal proceedings against those who are involved in the affair, according to officials and bankers.

Varyingly described by officials and banking circles as the "smartest operator" and the "biggest crook in Jordanian banking history", Ahmad Chalabi, former chairman and director general of Petra Bank,

held the keys to a puzzle that took an elite team of banking and monetary experts a whole year to pry open. Chalabi left the country in a hurry in August last year when the authorities took control of his troubled banking institution. The exact means through which he departed the Kingdom remains unknown, and all kinds of theories and scenarios have been tossed around to find out how he left and his present whereabouts.

"It is more a question of the total disarray in the bank's records and the sheer magnitude of violations of banking laws and disregard for all accepted norms of banking practices

which could make it one of the worst banking problems," according to a senior official familiar with the affair. "The volume of money involved may be little when compared to other similar cases elsewhere in the world, but the affairs of Petra Bank would make the collapse of some other banks look like Sunday school classes in comparison," added the official, who preferred anonymity.

"One of the worst in Middle East,"

Economic analysts believe that the Petra Bank affair could be second only to if not at par with the collapse of Intra Bank, which broke down in 1987 after years of dominating the Middle East banking scene as the number one bank in

Lebanon. "The only difference is that while Intra Bank was the largest commercial bank in Lebanon, Petra Bank was the second largest commercial bank in Jordan," commented a noted analyst.

Banking wizards called in to help investigations into the Petra Bank scandal, which sent shock waves through the entire banking system in the country, express shock and dismay at what is described as "the total chaos that awaited us in the books of accounts" at an institution widely hailed as having brought in some of the most modern banking techniques into the country.

"It has been a really hard and difficult job," said Dr. Maher Waked, a member of an investigating team which stepped into the picture early this year after four months of inquiries revealed that it

would really take some of the best brains in Jordan to make any sense of the financial affairs of Petra Bank.

"The most difficult hurdle in our mission was the absence of documents since there was no proper record of transactions," Dr. Waked told the Jordan Times.

"Abnormal and absurd"

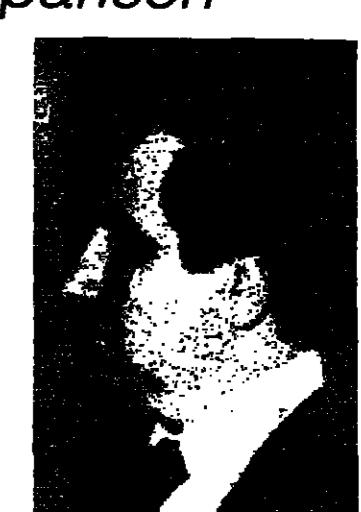
The investigations, conducted by whom bankers and economists describe as "top experts" in their respective areas of banking specialisation, have found that there had been "gross violations of banking regulations set by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), and unorthodox practices detrimental to the interests of the bank and its shareholders," said Dr. Waked, a director of the Bank of Jordan and a former member of the CBJ board of directors.

"Unorthodox banking practices are not a new phenomenon, nor are they punishable by law except when such practices undermine the interests of the bank as an institution and its shareholders," he added. "In the case of Petra Bank, this holds true."

"Petra Bank operations were totally abnormal and absurd," he said. "In many cases, we (the investigators) had to go and search for records ourselves since there were no corresponding entries in accounts."

"Placing deposits without proper assessment of their soundness and granting loans without proper collateral and credit facilities to loss-making institutions are only part of the picture that emerged," he said.

(Continued on page 5)



Ahmad Chalabi

Sudan, a shattered country, needs national reconciliation, ex-leader says

By Saber Qarni'een
and P.V. Vivekanand

AMMAN — Restoration of democratic life in Sudan can be realised only after national reconciliation has been achieved to enable Khartoum to tackle the festering rebellion in the south of the country, and the present military regime appears to be the best suited to serve this objective, if only because the Sudanese need to speak in one voice to resolve the conflict, according to a former military head of state of the North African Arab country.

"We are a shattered country," said Field Marshal Abdul Rahman Swaredahab. "Our priority is to achieve national reconciliation among all parties concerned in northern Sudan before turning to the south and then settling other problems."

Swaredahab, who served as head of the interim council which took power after the 1985 coup which overthrew the dictatorship of Jaafar Numeiri, said he believed that the present military regime of Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir has succeeded in establishing some form of law and order in the country as well as "one single voice" in the context of the decades-old revolt in the south of the country.

The field marshal, who drew wide acclaim as the sole Arab leader ever to voluntarily give up power when he stepped down in 1986 in favour of the elected government of Sadeq Al Mahdi, said he and "some friends" whom he described as neutral were exerting efforts to bring all Sudanese parties together in a national reconciliation bid.

Swaredahab, expressing tacit support for Bashir who overthrew Mahdi in a military coup in June last year, said he believed that the regime was "genuine" in its avowed goal of addressing some of the major political and economic problems of impoverished

Sudan, plagued by famine and drought and compounded by civil war.

According to Swaredahab, the biggest hurdle facing Sudan is the revolt in south, led by the Sudanese People's Liberation Front (SPLF) of John Garang based in Ethiopia. Several rounds of peace talks initiated by the Mahdi government as well as the Bashir regime with the rebels have failed to make any headway to resolve the conflict, which, Swaredahab said, dates back to 1955.

The field marshal, who was interviewed by the Jordan Times during a visit he paid to Jordan to attend a meeting of a relief committee chaired by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, rejected Garang's claims that underdevelopment in the south and domination of the mainly Arab northerners over the mostly animist southerners were the root causes of the conflict.

He pointed out that the conflict had erupted even before Sudan gained independence from Britain in 1956 and went on and off until 1972 when an agreement reached in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, managed to suspend open hostilities until the latest flare-up in 1983.

Swaredahab said Israeli support for the rebels was as old as the conflict itself, which, he said, was fuelled by the British colonial power through deliberate negligence of the south and "warnings to the southerners that they would end up as slaves of the Arabs in the north."

In the post-independence period, he said, consecutive regimes had drawn up plans to set up plantations and sugar industries in the south in a bid to develop the area but all such efforts were in vain because of the civil war. "Who was responsible for foiling these plans except the rebel forces?" he asked.

"I do not know what Garang wants," he said. "When I was head of the military council I invited him to come to Khartoum and sit down to discuss what he wants, but he never

came. The present regime also invited him several times; again he did not respond."

Swaredahab, one of the most respected Sudanese leaders in the Arab and international scene, lashed out at Israel for its support of the rebels. "They have supplied tanks and armoured personnel carriers to the rebels," he said, explaining that it was in the Jewish state's interests to keep Sudan preoccupied with internal problems so that it cannot be involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"Once we are able to end the problem in the south, all other problems of Sudan can be tackled," Swaredahab asserted. "This requires the presence of a strong unified front to deal with Garang either peacefully or militarily."

"Achieving a united front in north Sudan will leave little opportunity for Garang to play around," he said. "The military option is there, but any such option should be coupled with political solutions."

Swaredahab estimated the number of actual SPLF fighters at over 50,000 and said most of them were trained in Cuba. On the other side, he said, the Sudanese army is almost three times this number.

The career officer, who has undergone military training in Jordan decades ago, shied away from answering a question on whether the army was well-equipped to exercise the military option against the rebels. But, he said, "the regime needs to be in a good, strong military position," and lamented what he described as apathy on the part of consecutive governments in Sudan to take the rebellion seriously and turn attention to the armed forces.

Swaredahab believes that the Bashir regime could stay in power for several years, particularly after the execution three months ago of 28 military officers who were accused of involvement in a coup attempt.

Without indicating whether he supported or opposed the

executions which drew wide condemnation from many Arab and international circles as well as Sudan itself, the field marshal observed that the Bashir regime had consolidated its grip on power by using the execution as a deterrent against further bids to stage coups d'etat.

"It reminds me of the execution of five officers involved in a coup attempt against the military regime in 1957," he said. "The spate of coup attempts in the immediate post-independence period was brought to a swift end with these executions, and the military government stayed in power for another six years without disruption."

Bold economic steps'

Wearing the traditional Sudanese garb and relaxing in his hotel room, Swaredahab described as "bold steps" some of the measures taken by the military regime to address the chronic economic problems in Sudan.

He pointed out that Sudan, one of the biggest producers of sugar in Africa, was never an exporter of the commodity until last year when it exported 20,000 tonnes after the regime reorganised the sugar distribution system and blocked all efforts to smuggle sugar across its borders as it was the case over the past decades.

Another move by the Bashir government in the context of economy, he said, was the retirement of about 50,000 security personnel.

"The regime found that these people were redundant when seen in light of the needs of the country," he said. "It was really a bold decision."

Among other steps taken by the government, he said, were major allocations for the agricultural sector in the budget and encouragement to commercial banks to grant loans to farmers.

He also noted that the Revolutionary Command Council headed by Bashir had been organising almost weekly meetings attended by people's



Abdul Rahman Swaredahab

representatives to discuss the people's needs and the situation in the country.

Swaredahab explained why signals coming out of Khartoum have led to widespread belief that Bashir had aligned himself with the Islamic Salvation Front, the leading Muslim fundamentalist group in Sudan. "It is very clear that about 90 per cent of the Muslim population of Sudan support the implementation of Sharia (Islamic law) as is evident in the fact that the three major parties which dominated the elected parliament (during the Mahdi era) advocated it," he said. He further explained that it was only natural for Bashir to cooperate with the dominant trend in the country.

According to Swaredahab, almost all Arab countries support Bashir and his policies.

"In the beginning (immediately after the June 30, 1989 coup) they just watched, and extended support when it became clear that he was going to stay," he said.

Swaredahab said the national reconciliation efforts he was involved in targeted leaders of the 40 or so political parties in Sudan which were outlawed by Bashir when he took power. Contacts are continuing, he said, voicing confidence that sooner or later "the people of Sudan could be brought together."

Palestinian official criticises Moscow for appeasing Israel

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Soviet Union Sunday evening came under vehement attack by a member of a leading Palestinian guerrilla group for allowing the Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine to continue.

"Doesn't Moscow realise that its detente with Washington which brought about an agreement on the Jewish immigration is bound to create new conflicts in the Arab region," asked Mohammad Al Maslami, member of the political bureau of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and member of the National Committee for the Support of the Intifada in a lecture delivered at the Soviet Cultural Centre in Amman.

In his lecture, entitled "Assessment of Palestinian-Soviet Relations," Maslami said that the Arabs were grateful to the Soviet

Union for supplying them with modern weapons to defend themselves against Israel's aggression and for its positive mediation among the various Palestinian groups in 1985.

But, he said, "positive developments in Arab-Soviet relations in the past can by no means turn our eyes off the ongoing Soviet Jewish immigration which is bound to have detrimental effects on the Palestinian intifada and the Arab World at large."

"Why does the Soviet Union open the door wide for this immigration to our homeland, why does it host Zionist conferences and why has it stopped advocating the idea of an international conference?" asked Maslami with bitterness.

He said that the Soviet Union was dispatching touristic, cultural and artistic delegations to Israel who return with praise of what they call a "democratic Israel." He said an "advanced Jewish state" which continues to slaughter

Arab men, women and children, while similar delegations from the West return only to condemn Israel's atrocities against the Palestinian people and its human rights violations.

Intifada is bound to continue and the Palestinian people can never surrender or give up the struggle for freedom, undaunted by the seemingly unsurmountable difficulties and obstacles," Maslami said.

Maslami said that 1,163 Palestinians were killed in the ongoing intifada, 88,000 had been arrested and 2,000 homes had been demolished.

"The Israelis uprooted 188,000 fruit trees from Arab lands and stole Arab property estimated at \$377 billion since 1967," Maslami added.

He said at least 266 Israeli soldiers were killed since the outbreak of the intifada in December 1987 and 2,063 others have been injured.

Protection of industrial property can spur investment, transfer of technology

AMMAN (J.T.) — The lack of proper laws for protection of industrial property in the Kingdom is partly responsible for the limited national investment in industrial research and development over the past years, Minister of Industry and Trade Ziyad Fariz said Monday.

"Proper and effective laws in this regard can not only create incentives for investments with local capital but will also attract foreign investments and help Jordan benefit from modern technology in the production and services sectors and can contribute to industrial development in the Arab World," the minister said in an opening speech at a three-day meeting on industrial property which opened in Amman Monday.

Such matters can be dealt with through coordination among various industrial property offices in the Arab World, which the minister said, can play a leading role in promoting industrial research and development.

"The Ministry of Industry and Trade is now revising the legal

framework of Jordanian industries with the purpose of modernising them in a manner that would help national development and achieve the aspired coordination with the Arab countries," he said.

According to the organisers, the subjects to be tackled will cover industrial property rights and their contribution towards technological development, trade and economic relations among developing nations, the relationship between industrial property and marketing of industrial products in the Arab World.

WIPO aims at promoting the protection of intellectual property in the world through cooperating among states and, where appropriate, with other international organisations. It also centralises the administration of unions which deal with legal and technical aspects of intellectual property.

Under an agreement with the United Nations, WIPO is recognised as a specialised agency responsible for promoting creative intellectual activity and for facilitating the transfer of technology to developing countries.

Jordan celebrates New Year

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan along with other Islamic nations Monday celebrated Al Hijra (Islamic New Year) and religious celebrations were held in various areas of the Kingdom.

The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, which organised the ceremonies, said in a statement that a major celebration would be held at Al Hussein Mosque downtown Amman Tuesday afternoon during which

All government departments

Brotherhood renews criticism of government

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government is dragging its feet in implementing the administrative reforms it pledged to do upon its inception in December 1989 and has failed so far to present parliament with a comprehensive plan for such reforms, according to Abdul Latif Arabyat, member of the Lower House of Parliament and spokesman for the Parliamentary Islamic bloc.

"Six months have passed without Parliament hearing anything from the government about its plans for reforms or a clear strategy to deal with the question of soaring prices and the problem

of unemployment," Arabyat said in a statement published by Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily.

"When the present government was formed, it presented a 14-point policy statement for which it received a vote of confidence from Parliament," said Arabyat. "It is true that the government succeeded to return the passport, to free political prisoners and open the way for political freedom among other things, but there is no justification for the government's delaying measures to deal with pressing administrative issues," said Arabyat.

Arabyat said Jordan is in need of a national salvation government and hinted that he could accept to take part in such government in the future.

Arms haul intercepted near Karak, 15 people arrested

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Fifteen people were arrested last Wednesday after they were found to be in possession of arms and ammunition destined for Egypt but there was no indication of any "political connection" with the smuggling bid, official sources said Monday.

The people, of both Jordanian and Egyptian nationality, were detained in the Karak area on their way to Aqaba for the ferry ride to the Egyptian port of Nuweiba with about two dozen of Soviet-made Kalashnikov machine-guns and an assortment of ammunition and small guns, said one security source. "Investigations are continuing, and so far it appears to have been an attempt to smuggle the arms and ammunition for sale," the source said. "No political connection has been found yet."

All the arrested remained under detention Monday, he added.

A senior Interior Ministry official said a report was received by the ministry over the incident from the Public Secu-

rities Department. But the official said he could not recall any details offhand simply because the affair was taken as an aborted smuggling operation.

"I do not have the report with me now," said the official, who was reached over the phone at home since Monday was a public holiday. "If there was any evidence of any significant security link to the affair I would have definitely remembered the precise details," added the official, who preferred anonymity.

The officer in charge at Karak police station said he also did not have any details and advised the Jordan Times to contact the chief of police in the area Tuesday morning.

There was little indication that the arms and ammunition were intended to be used in any anti-Israeli attack across the demarcation line or in any attack within Jordan, according to all sources who were contacted by the Jordan Times.

Few details were immediately available on how and exactly where the arrests or made, or a breakdown of the number of Jordanian and Egyptian

Farmers sell grains worth JD 7.5m

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Agriculture has announced that August 1, 1990 will be the last date for receiving cereals produced in Jordan and that the centres assigned for purchasing the grain will be closed for this year.

The announcement was made by Dr. Sami Suma, the ministry's secretary-general, who said that the centres have so far purchased cereals from local farmers worth JD 7.5 million.

The ministry normally pays the locally produced cereals at higher rates than the international market in a bid to encourage local farmers to produce more.

INFORMATION SPECIALIST

Applicants are invited to apply for the post of Banking Information Specialist.

The responsibilities of the incumbent will include monitoring the performance of financial institutions using computerized data information system to report progress and analyze results and maintaining accounts. The successful candidate will possess a degree in Business Administration and/or Management of Information Systems. The candidate should have competence in operating and modifying computerized data systems and possess public relations skills. Knowledge of the business environment in Jordan would be an advantage.

Interested candidates to submit CVs to:
P.O. Box 830703
Amman, Jordan

Latest date to receive applications shall not be later than 2nd August 1990. Notifications for interview will follow.

Jordan, Egypt to discuss implementation of projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — A joint Jordanian-Egyptian committee will convene in Amman Tuesday to prepare the ground for a meeting here later this month by the Jordanian-Egyptian higher joint committee which is co-chaired by the prime ministers of the two countries.

The preparatory committee is expected to discuss bilateral cooperation in trade, economy and industry and look into means of boosting the volume of trade exchanged between them, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The preparatory committee, Petra said, will discuss means of promoting cooperation in agricultural

affairs, general investments and industry, and will examine the operations of the Arab Maritime Bridge Company which is owned by Egypt, Jordan and Iraq.

The company operates the Aqaba-Nwicib land-sea route between Aqaba and Sina.

Egyptian Minister of State for International Cooperation Maurice Makramallah will arrive in Amman Tuesday at the head of a team from his ministry and other concerned departments to take part in the talks with the Jordanian News Agency.

Makramallah has said that the two sides would discuss transport and communications issues as

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zara displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Roudina and Ruba Haddad at the Housing Bank Complex hall.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by ten Iraqi artists at the Jordan Plastic Art Association Gallery — tel. No. 699914.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings depicting Arabian and other horses by Hani Busi at the Philadelphia Hotel.
- ★ Comprehensive Islamic book exhibition at Yarmouk University.

JERASH FESTIVAL

- ★ Concerts by the Jordan Armed Forces Band (6:00 - 7:00 p.m.), a local folk troupe (7:00 - 8:00) and a Yemeni folk troupe (8:00 - 9:00 p.m.) at the Forum.
- ★ Poets and poetry at Artemis Steps (7:00 - 9:00 p.m.).

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Dynamics of union and break-ups

UNDER THE pressure of several centrifugal forces, Moscow is now renegotiating the terms of the union between its varied constituent parts. The pressure is not coming from Lithuania and its Baltic neighbours, Latvia and Estonia alone, but from other regions of the Soviet Union as well, notably from Armenia, and its neighbours.

This shake-up in the Soviet structure was inevitable since many of its components are so diametrically opposed to one another on most counts and have little commonality of interests between them. The forces that glued the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics together till now are giving way to the stresses and pulls of democratically arrived at public opinion and sentiment. In the long run, the Soviet Union would be better off without the existing parts that have little or no affinity with the core and spirit of the country. What could emerge from the ongoing negotiations in Moscow about the future structure of the Soviet Union could be a reinvigorated country that has divested itself of existing liabilities imposed upon it by peoples that are so alien to the rest of the country, culturally and politically speaking.

This restructuring of the union would also accelerate the process of modernisation in it and in due course uplift its stature as a contemporary nation-state on par with other modern centres of power in the new world of the twenty-first century. The dynamics of the new order in the Soviet Union would also offer the breakaway parts of the existing union to enjoy the exercise of their inalienable right to self-determination and a greater opportunity to enjoy their respective cultural orientations. The first sign of the failure or success of these ongoing negotiations would appear when Lithuania and Moscow are able to strike an amicable deal that would set the stage for other provinces in the Soviet Union which are also seeking sovereignty and association with Moscow.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

The new Hijra (Islamic) year is the topic for Monday's editorial in Al Ra'i Arabic daily which urged the Arabs to remember the Prophet Mohammad and his sacrifices at the dawn of Islam. The paper said that the anniversary is a reminder to the Muslims everywhere to try to follow in the footsteps of their Prophet and to learn from his great lessons and his command of the faithful. The anniversary comes at a time when the enemies of Islam and the Arab Nation are arming themselves with all types of weapons to impose their hegemony on the Arabs, benefiting from divisions and differences among Arab countries, and the weakness of the Arab will to fight and resist aggression, the paper noted. It said that one can learn the meaning of sacrifice and strong will from the Prophet's actions when he was fighting the enemies of his faith, and also when he had to take refuge in Medina to rally his forces and make a comeback to liberate the holy shrines in Mecca. On this occasion Muslims around the world can only remember the usurped Al Aqsa Mosque and the other holy places, and should re-emphasise their determination to double their efforts to liberate them and end Israel's occupation, the paper added. It said that the Hijra anniversary is an occasion for Muslims to display altruism and sacrifice, copying the example of the Prophet and his leadership at that moment in Islamic history.

Writing in Al Ra'i Monday, columnist Mahmoud Al Riaawi says that the Iraqi-Kuwaiti row over oil production and prices serves as a new test for Arab solidarity which was pledged by Arab leaders at the Amman summit and enhanced at the Baghdad summit. The writer says that the current dispute constitutes a real threat to this solidarity especially if the door is opened for foreign intervention because foreign forces can only hope to exploit this dispute for their own selfish interest. For its part, Iraq has always reiterated its stand that it will never interfere in other countries' affairs and never to resort to force in dealing with Arab states, says the writer. On the other hand Kuwait has always sought to put out rather than start fires wherever they might break out in the Arab World, he adds. These positive stands and the latest statement by the leaders in Baghdad and Kuwait are very strong indicators that the two sides will soon end this row and reach a settlement, the writer points out. Given goodwill and determination to settle the issue peacefully, he says, the two sides will indeed move forward towards a lasting settlement; but the Arab leaderships ought to find a way that can ensure no confrontation of any kind, and a formula to settle differences through direct contacts that are real signs of amity and close brotherly relations which should prevail and should help protect the Arab Order.

Commenting on message sent to His Majesty King Hussein from the Kuwaiti emir concerning the on-going dispute with Iraq over oil production, Al Dastour daily said that King Hussein has been at the forefront in all pan-Arab endeavours to bolster solidarity among Arab states. The paper said that Jordan has adopted a firm policy of close cooperation with all Arab states and constant moves at all fronts to protect the Arab order. Jordan realises too well the need to preserve the unity of Arab ranks at a time when Israel's defence minister flies to Washington to hatch more conspiracies against the Arabs as his hawkish government declares its intention to take the most extreme actions against the Arab people of Palestine, the paper noted. It said that the common enemy is bent on keeping the Arab countries involved in small and side battles, forgetting about the Zionist occupation of Palestinian land. We hope, said the paper, that the Jordanian and Arab mediation efforts will be crowned with success, and end the dispute in the Gulf for good.

Amman political chamber?

By Basem Sakikha

Following a prolonged labour that lasted several months and involved lengthy deliberations and meetings, the Jordanian leftist groups succeeded in declaring the birth of the Jordanian Nationalist Arab Democratic Coalition (JNADC). If signatures on the declaration statement were to be taken as an indication of a trend — then it looks like a good proportion of the leftist forces in Jordan are now to join forces with others representing the majority of political forces that exist in the Kingdom.

The coalition groups the Jordanian Communist Party, The Popular Front, the Democratic People's Party (HASHD) and Fatah... representing three different nationalistic political streams as well as grouping together prominent political personalities who are not affiliated to any known political party.

It should also be pointed out that the following leftist political personalities are not included in the coalition although they form an important section of the national political life in Jordan: Hamad Al Farhan, Suleiman Al Hadidi, Amin Shuaib, Hussein Mjalli and Dr. Jamal Al Shaer, in addition to two political groupings and Communist Party splinter factions.

Indeed, a dialogue between the various elements of this coalition started a year ago in an attempt to enter as one entity in the 1989 parliamentary elections, but according to observers, pure "selfishness" prevented them from reaching a consensus; and the result was that each separate political party preferred to enter the elections independently. This was also one way for sounding out the views of the Jordanian

public and determining the real weight of each of these various political groups and parties.

The observers believe that the election results came as a severe blow to the independent "political pattern" and way of thinking adopted by the leftists since the 1950s, prompting them to understand that uniting their ranks has now become inevitable for their survival.

The observers also believe that the growing power of the Islamic forces in Jordan and the region, at large, has driven the leftists into recognising the validity of trying to make any political moves individually...

Observers point out that the recent developments on the Jordanian political scene in which there was close coordination among various political groups, such as the return march to the bridge earlier this year to which leftists and independents were able to bring thousands in spite of a public boycott by the Muslim brotherhood, prompted them to unite and move together.

The leftist coalition has now emerged with a pure and bright image, but observers hope that this image will not be marred by regression to the old style of political thinking that had persisted over the past three decades.

A noted veteran leftist politician says: We are concerned about this coalition, and hope that the leftists will not revert to their earlier unsuccessful experiments. The directly referred to a general secretariat coordinating the work of the nationalist forces in the 1970s and the 1980s which failed to come up with a practical formula to mobilise the Jordanian nationalist political groupings.

This set-up casts doubts on the prospect of this coalition's survival.

But he also notes that the coalition members could benefit from the mistakes of the past, and it is hoped that the coalition would not serve as a mere "Amman political chamber."

The general secretariat which represented all national-

ist political forces in the country did not add anything to the Jordanian political life and left no imprints," the leftist said. "I really rule out the possibility that any of the signatories would be committed to a unified list in any future parliamentary election, simply because past experiences had shown that certain groups and factions are only concerned with ensuring for themselves political positions at the expense of the other independent forces," the same leftist noted.

The new coalition has not yet created a general secretariat and it looks as though there is no consensus yet among the leftists about this important point, he continues.

He concludes that the coalition could be no more than a gathering of Jordanian politicians designed to pave the way for coordinating efforts. But the big question is whether this coalition which has taken a year to emerge will be able to confront the growing Islamic forces.

In an attempt to answer this question, the veteran politician says that the matter is not easy at all because it requires from each group to forget and transcend the negative attitudes of the past and start to deal with one another on totally new bases.

He also says that the present coalition partners are not in harmony since the coalition groups the Jordanian Communist Party, the Palestinian Fatah group and Jordanian-Palestinian groupings.

This set-up casts doubts on the prospect of this coalition's survival.

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Foreclosed by destiny

By Paul Hopkins

TO some it may appear risky to speak about the future in the Middle East, but the confidence of a number of developments today tempt one to take that risk. Let me first of all make my prediction, then explain why I see things as I do.

Israel will have either

negotiated peace with the Palestinians and their Arab

neighbours within five years, or the State of Israel will not exist in 10 years as now constituted.

I believe as I do because four major factors now impact Israel's future in ways not anticipated a decade ago.

First, the Palestinian intifada has ended four decades of Palestinian submissiveness to Israel's oppressive occupation, and in doing so the Palestinian nation has been discovered by everyone in the world except Israel's political right wing.

Israel's superb ability in telling its story, aided by world sympathy over the European Jewish genocide, is now seen for the myth that it is. Either Israel joins the world in recognising Palestinian rights or loses the world's sympathy. Israel does not have much longer to make its decision.

Second, Israel's favourite Uncle Sam is running short of cash.

As long as times were good and the United States had no shortage of ability to take care of itself, the unprecedented aid given to Israel was no problem. Israel's lobby in Washington could deliver Congress, and the administration usually had no good reason to resist. Today, with cutbacks coming in almost all areas of America's good life, things are different. It takes increasing courage to vote in Congress for cuts in domestic programmes and to continue (or increase) the \$3-4 billion

aid package to Israel. Bob Dole's break is only the beginning. AIPAC, Israel's lobby, is on the skids. In the final analysis it cannot deliver the vote if those running for re-election (or are candidates for the first time) choose to put the issue of AIPAC's supposed power on the table, as Dole and others are doing.

Third, Saddam Hussein of Iraq has created in the Middle East a "balance of terror." America's buildup of Israel's military power has made Israel a source of terror to her Arab neighbours. Sadly, Israel has not, to date, used that power to make peace. Her two invasions of Lebanon, many thrusts of reprisal into that poor country, the bombing of Iraq and Tunis — all these have created fears in the Arab World which Israel blindly refuses to understand. Now Hussein says that Iraq stands ready to respond to any such future attack by raising the ante (as Israel has done in the past by its use of bombs to retaliate for a few guerrillas crossing her border) by using "the poor man's nuclear bomb," chemical weapons, in retaliation.

Since Israel knows that Saddam Hussein is sufficiently malevolent to carry out his threat, one hopes that there will be sufficient leadership in Israel's government to keep its Massada complex in check.

That, in turn, means that it will be difficult to try to rebuild world sympathy by risking some military experiment, as has been attempted in the past.

In today's atmosphere of "resolution of conflicts" it would be foolhardy in any event; in view of Hussein's threat of retaliation it should be compa-

retable to a threat against humanity in the Middle East.

Fourth, Israel's option for the status quo in internal politics is foreclosed, as is its option of occupying Palestinian land. The political stalemate that has created two governments of "national unity" has just about run its course.

Something must give, and soon. During a recent visit to Israel I was told that, roughly speaking, 20 per cent of the Israeli people are prepared to exchange land for peace; 20 per cent are at (or close to) the point of risking civil war rather than give up the occupied territories; and 60 per cent are likely to go in any direction they may be led. Obviously they have not been getting leadership during the period of the so-called national unity governments. But those days will soon be over, and a change in the way Israel elects its leadership is bound to come.

If responsible leadership results from such an election, leadership which recognises that Israel now stands alone in the world but has a large security for itself and justice for the Palestinians, Israel could be at peace with its neighbours within five years. If, on the other hand, it responds to leadership with a Massada complex — which Shamir seems to exhibit — then Israel will either plunge into civil war or the Middle East into a genocide which will make Hitler's infamous European genocide pale by comparison.

It is a terrible moment when a nation positioned as Israel is, comes to a position where its option for the status quo is foreclosed by history — Israel and Palestine Political Report.

The writer, Paul Hopkins, is an international specialist on the Sudan and Middle East and formerly in charge of Mideast affairs for the Presbyterian Church, USA.

Saudi ties with China set stage for similar move with Moscow

By Rawhi Abdallah
Reuter

NICOSIA — Saudi Arabia, a strictly Muslim kingdom which once reviled the communist world as atheistic, has established diplomatic relations with China — and the Soviet Union is expected to be next.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal, announcing the move on Saturday night, called it "a significant step that would benefit... the interests of our Arab and Muslim nation."

Diplomats say it is only a matter of time before the world's biggest oil exporter, previously with no ties to any communist state, moves to establish relations with the Soviet Union.

Relations Moscow, suspended for more than 50 years, began to thaw after the Kingdom mediated the Soviet troop withdrawal from Muslim Afghanistan in early 1989. Two senior Soviet officials have visited the Kingdom since then.

Taiwan, which says it is the legitimate government of China, formally suspended diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia but valuable economic links are likely to be preserved.

Diplomats say Saudi Arabia recognised China's political importance and saw it could play a useful role in supporting Arab causes.

The breakthrough in the long-running talks to set up ties began on July 11, when the Saudi Ambassador to the United States Prince Bandar Bin Sultan visited Beijing.

Qian, who arrived in Saudi Arabia on Friday for the first visit by a Chinese minister, said the move would "serve the interests of peace, stability and development in the world."

"This important event in relations... will open broad horizons in the future," the official Saudi Press Agency quoted him as saying.

Beijing's relations with the West have been slowly improving following the breakdown caused by its bloody crackdown on the democracy movement last year.

Taiwan exports textiles, machinery, electronic appliances and car parts to Saudi Arabia and imports about 145,000 barrels a day of mainly crude oil.

He said Beijing had sold about \$3.5 billion worth of missiles to Saudi Arabia after the United States Congress blocked major arms sales to the Kingdom. Beijing had also helped Riyadh launch satellites valued at about \$3.1 billion.

In 1988, China sold Saudi Arabia CSS-2 medium-range non-nuclear missiles that could hit targets in Israel and Iran.

The move, while predicted days in advance, is a diplomatic blow to Taiwan, now recog-

Kuwait defends itself

(Continued from page 1)

the issue.

"President Assad said there should be no escalation and (stressed) the necessity of solving Arab differences by talking," the Syrian News Agency SANA quoted the president as telling envoy Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, Kuwait's minister of state for cabinet affairs.

SANA said Awadi delivered a message on the dispute to Assad from Kuwait's emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

The Kuwaiti minister, who arrived from Jordan Sunday, was to leave for Lebanon later Monday to hand a similar message to President Elias Hrawi.

Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Khli has sus-

pected his mediation in the Iraq-Kuwait crisis until he is ensured of Iraq's cooperation, diplomatic sources reported Monday.

Klibi, after two days of talks with Kuwait's leadership, left Sunday for his headquarters in Tunis. He did not proceed to Iraq as had been anticipated.

The sources, who spoke to the AP on condition they not be named, said that he would head back from Tunis to Baghdad once he was ensured of sufficient willingness for cooperation by Iraq.

Five North African states decided Monday to send an envoy to the Gulf to try to mediate in the dispute.

The final declaration of a two-day Maghreb summit expressed concern over the row.

deter violence.

The Israeli occupation authorities expelled 60 Palestinians as uprising leaders. It argues that while mass expulsions are banned by the Geneva conventions, expulsions of a few individuals are permissible.

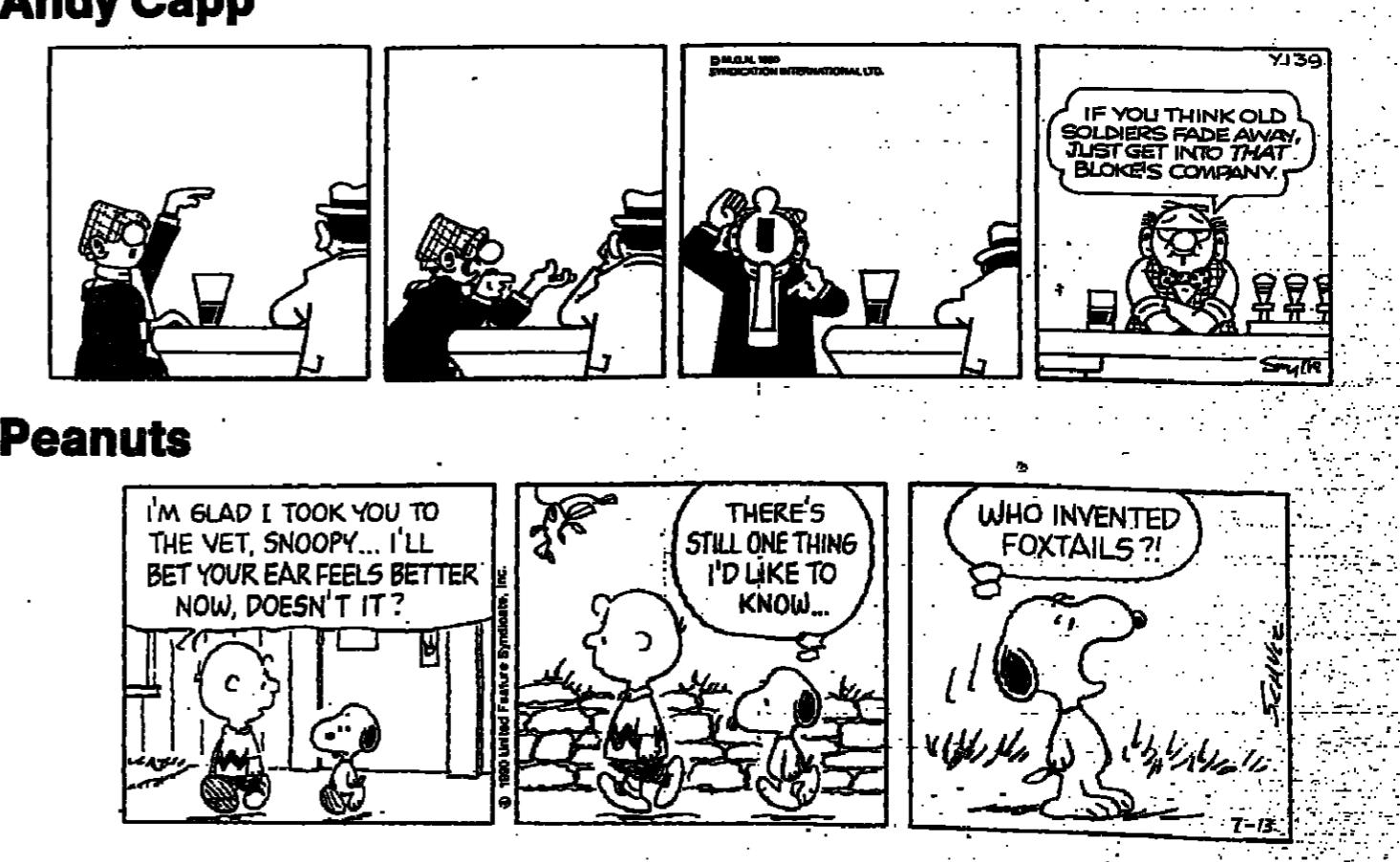
The Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits "individual or mass forcible transfers, as well as deportations."

The United States and European Community (EC) nations have said repeatedly that Israel violates human rights by demolishing houses and expelling Palestinians. The EC considers Jewish settlements illegal, while the United States says they are obstacles to peace.

Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Opinion & Analysis

Soviet gymnasts score top marks at Goodwill Games

SEATTLE, Washington (R) — Nervous Nesty and the cool competitors of the Soviet gymnastic team shared star billing as the Goodwill Games got into full swing.

Anthony Nesty overcame the jitters to once again beat swim star Matt Biondi, while the men's gymnastic team of the Soviet Union were simply perfect, particularly young Vitali Scherbo.

The 17-day games moved into high gear as athletics competition opened at massive Husky Stadium and Soviet pole vaulter Rodion Gataullin treated the crowd to the best vault of the year outdoors — 5.92 metres — to win the gold.

But Jackie Joyner-Kersee, who set a heptathlon world record in the inaugural Goodwill Games, got off to a disappointing start in this year's event after a poor shot put and a slow 200 metres time.

Nesty punctured Matt Biondi's aura of invincibility at Seoul when he touched home a mere one-hundredth of a second ahead in the 200-metre butterfly to deprive the American of a sixth gold medal in the 1988 Olympics.

The prospect of a re-match, however, left Nesty nervous.

"I came into this race more nervous than I've ever been. Waiting to swim, I could not stand it anymore. I was about to pee in my pants," said Nesty, who managed to contain himself and transform his nervous energy into the speed needed to claim the gold.

Scherbo led the Soviet gymnasts to an awesome sweep as he and his teammates collected gold in every event of the three-day meeting.

Scherbo, 18, was best of all. He won three individual golds, including the all-around title, and produced the only perfect 10 score of the meeting with a thrilling vault.

All did not go smoothly on the first day of athletics.

Heptathlete Lilianna Nastase of Romania was hit on the side of the face and neck by a competitor's shot put during warm-ups and she left the field before continuing.

Things went better on the track for Paul Williams, who won the 5,000 metres. But his moment of glory looked in jeopardy when the sound system conked out and would not play the Canadian national anthem.

At first the crowd booed, but the jeers turned to loud and long cheers for Williams, who raised his victory bouquet in appreciation.

Rowing completed a hectic two days of competition which were full of action on and off the water.

West Germany won the featured men's eight over the U.S. rowers by three seats, while Britain straggled home last in the men's four after replacing rower Timothy Foster in the lineup.

Foster had been in hospital for heat exhaustion and dehydration after winning a bronze in the men's four without Coxswain.

A 25-year-old Seattle man had also caused a stir at Mount Baker Rowing Centre when he proclaimed that his camera bag was filled with dynamite, placed it on the ground and stepped back.

Special police bomb squads were summoned to inspect the bag. Inside was only a video camera, but police pressed charges against the practical joker anyway.

Volleyball competition at Gonzaga University in Spokane has provided local police with a different sort of diversion. Police, who supervise security there, are angling for the popular afternoon shift, when members of the Brazilian women's team can be seen sunbathing Brazilian style — topless.

Soviet wins marathon

Meanwhile, Zoya Ivanova, a Soviet campaigner, led a Soviet sweep of the medals in the women's marathon at the Goodwill Games Sunday, winning in 2 hours, 34 minutes, 37 seconds.

Ivanova, 38, and countrywoman Irina Bogacheva ran side-by-side for virtually all of the first 17 miles of the 28-mile, 385-yard (42-kilometre) race. Ivanova, winner of 10 of 23 marathons, then charged in front as her teammates began to wilt under the hot, humid conditions.

"They only started running marathons in the Soviet Union 10 years ago, so this is a 10-year jubilation," Ivanova said through an interpreter.

Ivanova, a teacher and a mother, went in as the favourite, having been the only runner in the elite nine-woman field with a time under 2:30.

Ivanova's best career time was 2:27:57 in finishing second in the 1987 World Championships. She also was second in the 1985 World Cup, while her victories included the 1981 European Cup, the 1982 Tokyo Marathon, the 1984 Friendship Games, the 1987 World Cup and the 1989 Los Angeles Marathon.

Bogacheva, runnerup in the first Goodwill Games in 1986, again finished second in 2:36:24, and Ravilya Barangulova was third in 2:37:40.

"I like to run in the U.S., because the American fans welcome me, are very friendly, and they help me a lot," Ivanova said.

Ivanova said her only disappointment was that "the leading runners in the world were not

Medal table

	G	S	B	Tot
United States	17	26	11	48
Soviet Union	16	16	14	46
East Germany	8	4	11	23
West Germany	3	2	3	8
Netherlands	1	1	4	6
China	1	2	1	4
Italy	1	2	0	3
Spain	1	2	0	3
Hungary	1	1	1	3
Canada	1	0	1	2
Australia	0	1	1	2
Romania	0	1	1	2
Cuba	1	0	0	1
Czechoslovakia	1	0	0	1
Denmark	1	0	0	1
Jamaica	1	0	0	1
Mexico	1	0	0	1
Poland	1	0	0	1
Surinam	1	0	0	1
Ethiopia	0	1	0	1
Britain	0	0	1	1
Brazil	0	0	1	1

here. ... these were the second-class runners.

"I trained long hours, and I treated the race with the utmost seriousness," she said.

Among those missing were Joan Benoit Samuelson of the United States, Norwegian Greta Waitz and Ingrid Kristiansen, and Rosa Mota of Portugal.

Lisa Kindelan, a last-minute replacement, was the first for the United States, placing fourth in 2:42:05.

At the 1986 Goodwill Games, the Soviets swept the first five places, with the first U.S. runner sixth.

East German wins women's discus

The political upheaval that brought down the Berlin Wall has not affected the athletic proficiency of East German discus standout Ilke Wyludka — yet.

Wyludka, unbeaten in two years and ranked no. 1 in the world in her specialty, endured a 19-hour, twice-delayed flight from London but captured the women's discus Sunday at the Goodwill Games with a throw of 223 feet, 4 inches.

"I like to run in the U.S., because the American fans welcome me, are very friendly, and they help me a lot," Ivanova said.

Ivanova said her only disappointment was that "the leading runners in the world were not

Agassi cruises to Washington classic

WASHINGTON (R) — Top-seeded Andre Agassi crushed any hopes sixth-seed Jim Grabb had of capturing his second career singles title with a 6-1, 6-4 victory Sunday in the \$550,000 Washington Tennis Classic.

The last time the two met in a final at Seoul in 1987, Grabb walked away with the winner's trophy. Since then the two had met twice, Agassi winning both, and he gave a repeat performance Sunday.

Agassi, ranked fourth in the world, needed only 62 minutes to dispose of Grabb and win the \$70,000 first prize in his first tournament since losing the French Open final.

"I came here and every match it seemed like I rose to the occasion," said Agassi, who had not hit a tennis ball for a month until four days before coming to Washington.

"I could've done better if I was pushed harder. I feel great about my performance."

Agassi totally dominated the 18th-ranked Grabb, whose serve-and-volley game deserted him.

Grabb improved in the second set, but only enough to lose it respectively. Agassi made in the decisive break in the third game with a backhand pass.

"I thought Andre played great," said Grabb, who won \$36,880. "He's hitting the ball with such pace you have to see the ball quickly. I'd have to sustain a high level of play for too long."

At the 1986 Goodwill Games, the Soviets swept the first five places, with the first U.S. runner sixth.

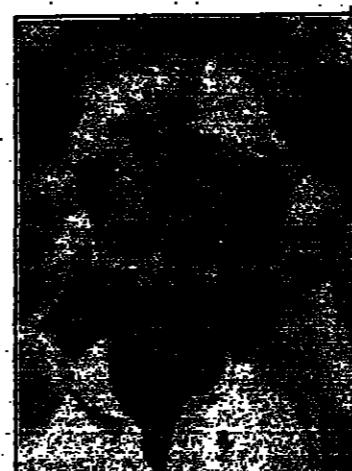
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Andre Agassi

For much of the match Agassi kept Grabb pinned to the baseline, forcing him to chase after balls — something Grabb is not comfortable doing.

In the 20-minute first set, Grabb only held his serve once, in the fourth game, while managing a total of only three points off Agassi's serve.

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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY JULY 24, 1990
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Excellent opportunities today require precise action on your part to bring about a more harmonious colour to your well-being. New friendships come easily and work to your advantage whenever you come in contact with but today you can meet those who are endowed with positive action that you need.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Put yourself on notice early that you are going to use every idea that comes into your mind to utilize the potentials in them to advance your prosperity.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You have many inspired thoughts about what you can quietly do to make your dreams come true and should act on them in private right away.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You now have a chance to make some interesting new acquaintances who can open doors for you by which you can gain personal goals you desire.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Although home and family are vital to your happiness, you have a strong desire for a greater part in the scheme of patriotic interests you like.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Consider well what you can do to increase whatever productive activity is your main interest and you can achieve far more than you had thought possible.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You have some excellent ideas of a practical nature by which your income can be increased and even more property become a part of your assets.

correct and in order and this is a fine day to organize your activities so they are more operative for you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You like to analyse and balance whatever you come in contact with but today you can meet those who are endowed with positive action that you need.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A day when you want to have a good time in ways you have not enjoyed or experienced are this and it is just the right time to branch out in activities.

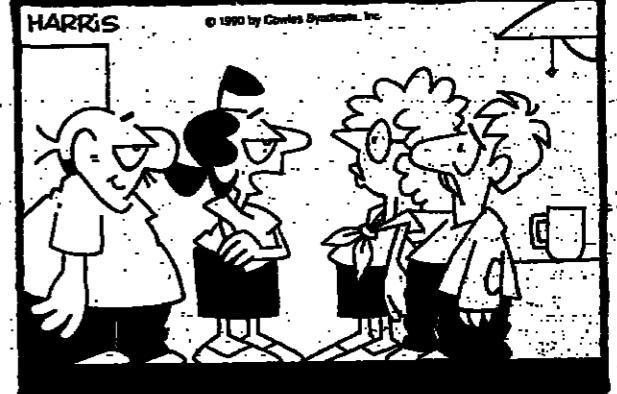
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A whole new set of conditions could be just what is needed in order to add to the harmony at your dwelling so put in motion today.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You like to make constructive changes and this is a particularly opportune day to do so and your success can soar by more idealistic projects.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You like to have everything

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"Marriage is a give-and-take thing. I give him headaches and he takes me for granted."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SNUKK

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JYTET

© 1990 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

BUESAD

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CRAHNB

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

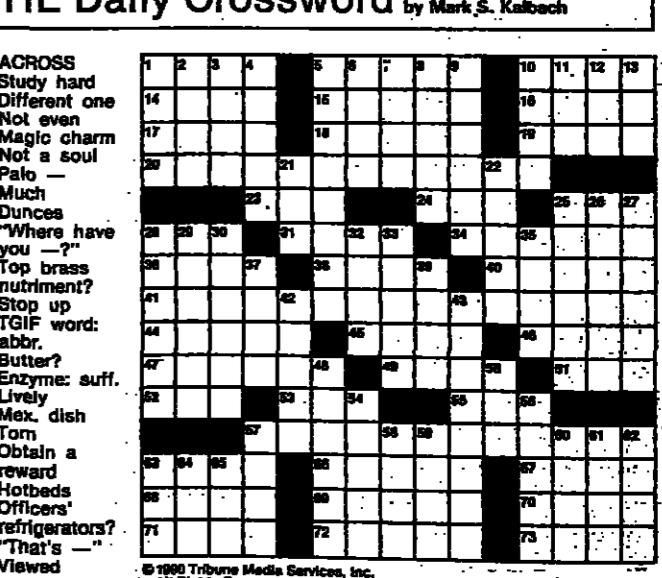
(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumble: SMOKEY PARTY HAIRDO LIQUOR

Answer: What he did when the doctor suggested he try some weight lifting—STOOD UP

THE Daily Crossword

by Mark S. Kalbach



Portugal protects key industries

LISBON (R) — Portugal may let foreigners have a bigger stake in its industrial privatisation programme, but is determined to keep "strategic" companies in Portuguese hands, a senior finance ministry official says.

Eduardo da Costa, secretary of state for finance, told Reuters in an interview Portuguese groups had yet to consolidate enough to be able to compete unopposed with investors from abroad.

The centre-right government has sold off a brewer, a newspaper and 49 per cent each of a major bank and two insurance companies since April, 1989, netting a total of 70 billion escudos (\$485 million at the current exchange rate). Limits of 10 or 20 per cent of total equity were set for non-residents in each case.

Da Costa said the government would continue to set such limits on a case-by-case basis.

"These limits will be in inverse proportion to the importance of the companies to be privatised. The foreigners will be able to have 20 per cent, 10 per cent, 30 per cent, 40 per cent," he said.

"We are more concerned about those companies which have not only a strategic importance, but also a strategic image," he added. He cited Banco Português do

Atlântico E.P. (BPA) and Cimentos de Portugal E.P. (Cimpor) as examples.

"These are companies which are 'bred in the bones' and whose control it is politically important to have secured by Portuguese," he said.

Despite the restrictions on foreigners, the government's privatisation policy has already come under fire from Pedro Ferreira da Costa, who heads Portugal's club of industrialists, the Confederação da Indústria Portuguesa.

Da Costa said in a speech last month that Portuguese were being outbid by better-placed foreigners, who were taking over important chunks of industry. Portuguese were losing control of their own destiny, he said.

He said foreign investment in the programme was essential, healthy and fundamental for the development of Portugal, which has recently pulled itself ahead of Greece, which now holds the title of the European Community's poorest member.

But he added: "If foreign investment comes to Portugal with a view of dominating the public companies to be privatised, they will not be much welcomed by the

government. If they come in partnership with Portuguese companies, they will be welcomed."

The programme continues with a further 31 per cent stake in Banco Totta e Acores S.A., to be completed by July 31, with foreigners restricted to 10 per cent of total capital.

Fifty-one per cent of the small shipping firm Transportes Marítimos Insulares Companhia de Seguros S.A. Tranquiliade and brewer Central de Cervejas E.P. (Centraler).

One-third of BPA, Portugal's biggest bank, will go on sale later this year. Privatisation of cement maker Cimpor is also due to begin this year, in principle, Da Costa said. Beyond that the timetable is still undecided.

Da Costa said the foreigners' limit for Centraler would definitely be "a good deal" higher than 20 per cent.

This was the level set for Portugal's biggest brewer, Uniao Cervejeira S.A. (Unicer), which last month produced the first hiccup in the programme. While the foreigners' 20 per cent was massively oversubscribed, Portuguese offers fell 311,000 shares short and the organising bank syndicate was forced to step in.

Huge deficits to keep Greek interest rates high

ATHENS (R) — Greece's huge state deficits will not be cut this year, keeping interest rates high and thwarting efforts to modernise the battered economy, central bank governor Dimitris Halikias said in an interview Sunday.

"As long as the deficits remain at their present levels, and unfortunately they won't be reduced in 1990, interest rates will remain high for companies," he said.

The Bank of Greece has raised interest rates twice this year to curb the credit expansion fueling inflation of more than 21 per cent annually and a big balance of payments deficit.

Minimum annual rates in July rose two per cent each for savings accounts (to 18 per cent), operating capital (to 20 per cent) and medium-to-long term loans (to 19 per cent).

Halikias said the budget deficit, estimated at \$12.9 billion for 1990 or more than 18 per cent of Greece's annual gross domestic product, was the fundamental economic problem.

"We must be bolder. We must cut expenditures drastically and press ahead with harsh measures where necessary," he said, suggesting real reductions in farm subsidies, cutting state employees and combating tax evasion.

Prime Minister Constantine

political unrest last year.

"But as foreign countries are getting a better understanding of June 4th, and as the domestic situation is still improving, the general trend in foreign investment is getting better," he said.

Liu Xiangdong, spokesman for the ministry of foreign economic relations and trade, welcomed Japan's recent decision to permit lending under a \$5.6 billion loan package frozen after the crackdown.

He called on other major industrial nations, which also imposed curbs on official lending to China after the army crushed a democracy movement in Beijing on June 4, 1989, to lift sanctions.

Imports from Japan during the first five months slumped 47.8 per cent, while imports from the United States fell 26.8 per cent and those from the European Community dropped 30.7 per cent.

Liu attributed the fall to reduced demand stemming from the austerity programme and to a devaluation of the Chinese currency last year.

Exports during the January-June period rose 21.7 per cent to \$24.5 billion, according to the ministry's figures.

Mitsotakis formed the first conservative government since 1981 after his New Democracy Party won national elections in April. He imposed economic austerity measures, including higher taxes on public services such as telephones, electricity and transportation, as well as cigarettes, alcohol, and petrol.

But when he unveiled his 1990 budget in May — six months late due to a year-long political crisis — state spending rose by 30 per cent, largely due to interest payments on outstanding loans.

In presenting the budget Mitsotakis said his hands were tied by commitments made under the Socialists, who were voted out of office in June 1989 after eight years in power. Plans to cut spending would be reflected in the 1991 budget in November.

In recent weeks, Halikias, a Socialist appointee has sounded almost optimistic about the government's efforts to bring the economy under control.

If the government sticks to its declared economic plan over the next two or 2½ years, conditions could be met for the drachma's entry into the European Monetary System (EMS), he said.

"It is possible that in 1993 the conditions will have been created for our participation in the EMS." That means cutting inflation to 10 per cent a year and the budget deficit to 10 per cent of gross domestic product.

This is the formula agreed by five Gulf Arab producers, includ-

Baghdad said seeking \$25 oil price before raising OPEC output

ing Iraq, in Jeddah two weeks ago.

The quotas would be maintained until prices rose above \$18 per barrel or possibly higher still if the Geneva conference agreed to raise the minimum reference target.

But this was as far as the consensus went, MEES said.

"The question of where the price would have to reach and for how long in order to justify a consideration of an increase in the ceiling and quotas, has been left open and there are evidently considerable differences of opinion on this score," MEES said.

Iraq has said it hopes for a higher OPEC quota in October.

The Geneva meeting was likely to focus on the question of price targets, the Nicosia-based newsletter said.

The newsletter said despite the support for the Iranian proposal, another line of opinion shared by OPEC President Sadek Boussena of Algeria would prefer to concentrate on restoring prices to \$18 per barrel, leaving any increase in the formal price target till later.

"At the other end of the spectrum, MEES understands Iraq's

official position is that quota and ceiling increases should not even be considered until the OPEC basket price reaches \$25 per barrel," MEES said.

Iraq last Tuesday launched a stinging attack on Kuwait and the UAE for overproducing and forcing down oil prices, saying they were part of the U.S. instigated conspiracy that drove down oil prices by 30 per cent in the first half of this year.

MEES said Iraq's role in pressuring the UAE and Kuwait to cut production was welcome for most OPEC members but there was dismay in some circles over its hardline tactics, it added.

The Iraqi accusations in the wake of the July 10 Jeddah agreement in which Kuwait and the UAE agreed to drastically cut output, stunned conservative Gulf Arab producers.

Iraq — which desperately needs higher oil revenues to fund its post-war reconstruction programme — also threatened to take "unspecified action" against both countries if they produced above their quotas, as they have in the past.

Slack production, currency shortages batter food supply in Soviet Union

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union, plagued by stagnant food production and severe shortages of hard currency, faced bread shortages and increased social tensions, Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov has warned.

Ryzhkov told the new presidential council and republican leaders that real food production — up about one per cent — had just barely kept pace with population growth.

Government purchases of grain from collective and state farms were lagging behind 1989 and there was not enough currency to even approach last year's purchase of 44 million tonnes on the foreign market.

"Unless we fundamentally change the situation, then the country is not in any condition — I can say categorically — to purchase that much grain," Ryzhkov said in a speech.

Their accounting rates may be based on the cost of operator-assisted international calling, and not reflect the lower costs of today's ubiquitous direct-dialing.

West Germany, for instance, has not lowered its accounting rate since 1983. U.S. phone companies still pay half of \$1.56 a minute, or 78 cents a minute, to the Germans for completing calls to West Germany.

AT and T and its rivals charge between \$6.20 and \$11.58 for a 10-minute call from the United States to West Germany, depending on when and how the call is made.

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daily Selskaya Zhizn.

The newspaper said at the weekend the state must acquire 85.3 million tonnes of grain. "Less than that is impossible. There may arise disruption in the bread supply to the people."

But only 76 million tonnes had been contracted, despite the sharp increases in procurement prices and incentives, including promised payments in hard currency and access to scarce machinery and consumer goods.

And the state has bought only 7.6 million tonnes of grain so far, although more than 40 million tonnes of grain had been threshed.

The newspaper also reported widespread complaints that vehicles, tractors and building supplies bought with last year's surplus grain had not been delivered. And it blamed serious mismanagement and failure of the state to provide equipment, parts and fuel.

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Lawmakers close to Tamils resign Curfew imposed in north Sri Lanka; army moves towards besieged base

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Lawmakers considered close to the Tamil Tiger rebels resigned from parliament Monday, accusing the military of atrocities and genocide in a war with the guerrillas.

Meanwhile, the government declared a curfew in northern Kilinochchi district, scene of a fierce gunbattle Sunday that killed 18 rebels and nine soldiers Sunday. The military said it was hunting fleeing rebels.

Military officials said 76 rebels were killed in separate fighting in the east Sunday, and eight soldiers and three civilians in the north.

The deaths raise to at least 2,856 the number of combatants killed since fighting resumed on June 11 between the military and the rebels.

The bodies of eight Muslims, believed killed by rebels, were also found in the east, said military officials speaking on condition of anonymity.

All eleven members of the Elavur Democratic Front announced their resignation from parliament. Last month, the group had called for a ceasefire between the rebels and the government. President Ranasinghe Premadasa rejected the offer.

Seoul opposition resigns from assembly

SEOUL (Agencies) — The South Korean opposition resigned en masse from parliament Monday to press for new elections. The government, preoccupied with overtures to North Korea, said the protest would be ignored.

Opposition leader Kim Dae-Jung led 80 lawmakers in submitting letters of resignation to the National Assembly speaker. A spokesman for the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) said the resignations would not be accepted.

"From this seed will grow the tree of opposition unity, and if we unify the people will support us," Kim said.

The lawmakers who quit parliament were 70 members of Kim's Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD), eight from the Democratic Party (DP) and two independents. The DLP holds 218 of the chamber's 299 seats. One independent, who leans towards the government, did not resign.

The opposition has demanded new general elections. DLP leaders have countered that the current constitution does not allow an early dissolution of parlia-

ment. Elections are not due until 1992.

The DLP, formed by the merger of Roh's minority ruling party with two opposition groups, has used its muscle to ram through its legislative programme, parts of which were strenuously opposed by the opposition.

Opposition frustration has resulted in weeks of political turmoil, including fist-fights among lawmakers.

Kim said he would lead a series of peaceful rallies to press for new elections, and together with other leaders said the usually fending opposition had agreed to unite to demand the elections and to oppose the DLP.

Two hundred thousand people braved rain last Saturday to cheer Kim and other opposition leaders at the first such rally near Seoul.

The government Monday said dissidents and others would be allowed to attend a North Korean unification rally called for next month at the border village of Panmunjom.

South Korea has in the past imposed heavy sentences on its citizens convicted of pro-Pyongyang activities and earlier

activity," the Defence Ministry said in a statement broadcast on state radio.

"This measure is adopted for the safety and security of the civilian population," it said.

The base at Kilinochchi, 10 kilometres south of Elephant Pass gateway to Jaffna, is one of a dozen army bases attacked by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Infantry, backed by artillery and air cover, were marching towards Kilinochchi from Elephant Pass, where the Tigers blew up a vital causeway Saturday, military sources said.

Troops from a camp at Elephant Pass, reinforced by 1,000 soldiers parachuted in Saturday, launched the advance after army engineers repaired the causeway, the military said.

The STF estimated there were 150 to 200 corps. Officers said they were those of men from three police stations who surrendered without a fight after months of cooperating with the Tigers under government orders.

"They would have been killed almost immediately on June 13," said STF Commandant Lionel Karumasewa.

The paramilitary STF had been sent in to seize back the southern tip of Sri Lanka's Tamil northeast province from the Tigers.

"The troops would hit the Tigers hardest during these days," Kobekaduwa, who led the military offensive in the east, said.

Security forces unveiled scores of decaying bodies half-buried in the eastern Sri Lanka bush Sunday and said they were policemen abducted and killed by Tamil separatist guerrillas.

Tamil policemen were freed and some others escaped, but the government said 630 were missing, believed dead.

On Sunday, the government's elite Special Task Force (STF) took journalists to a clearing in the bush outside Rufus Kulam, 80 kilometres south of Batticaloa, to display a mass grave and two piles of charred flesh nearby.

Government Col. Heng Thol was quoted as saying the guerrillas have intensified attacks since last month's agreement in Tokyo to arrange a truce.

The Khmer Rouge did not sign the Tokyo agreement.

Claims of military successes by the government and the Khmer Rouge, both Communist, are treated with scepticism. But other sources have confirmed heavy fighting in Kompong Thom.

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Fierce fighting reported between Cambodian troops, Khmer Rouge

BANGKOK (AP) — Cambodia's Vietnamese-installed government Monday reported fierce fighting in a mountainous central province that it said Khmer Rouge guerrillas were trying to seize.

"The enemy are attempting by all means to seize control," of Kompong Thom, the Cambodian News Agency (SPK) quoted the chief provincial administrator, Khieu Hor, as saying.

Khieu Hor showed heaps of firearms, ammunition and other material recently captured from the guerrillas, said the report monitored in Bangkok. He said about 800 Khmer Rouge guerrillas struck from all directions on June 17, but were repulsed in fighting that killed 112 guerrillas.

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Wednesday, Thai Foreign Minister Siddhi Savetsila said Monday the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) still supports Cambodian guerrillas despite a decision by its U.S. ally to end recognition of the Khmer Rouge-dominated coalition.

Siddhi, long involved in labyrinthine moves to end the 11-year conflict, told reporters ASEAN would issue a statement at its annual meeting of foreign ministers in Jakarta this week pledging continued backing for the guerrillas.

The Khmer Rouge, which killed hundreds of thousands of people when in power in the 1970s, is allied in a guerrilla coalition with the forces of Sihanouk and of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front. Vietnam has intensified attacks since last month's agreement in Tokyo to arrange a truce.

A U.S. policy shift announced Wednesday has increased fears that the Khmer Rouge will escalate the fighting because of its international isolation. The United States, citing its opposition to the Khmer Rouge, said it was withdrawing recognition of the coalition's seat at the United Nations to arrange a truce.

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bordering Thailand.

The Khmer Rouge and non-Communist guerrillas loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk have seized wide areas of the province in recent months. Sihanouk's fighters also briefly penetrated the provincial capital, also called Kompong Thom, said an Associated Press correspondent who visited the area.

The Khmer Rouge radio said Saturday it was preparing a new attack on the provincial capital, about 120 kilometres north of Phnom Penh.

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